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Woman, 28, dies in Hwy 35 collision

One person has died after a two-vehicle collision on Highway 35, south of Dorset, in Algonquin Highlands last Friday.

Haliburton Highlands Ontario Provincial Police and emergency services responded to the collision involving a passenger vehicle and flatbed truck on Highway 35, near Shoe Lake Road, on Feb. 11 at approximately 12:10 p.m.

As a result of the collision, one driver was pronounced deceased. The deceased has been

identified as Amy Gervais, 28, of Callander.

Highway 35 was closed in both directions until about 7 p.m. as OPP technical collision investigators and reconstructionists completed their investigation.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision and has not yet spoken to police is asked to contact the Haliburton Highlands OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

— Staff

County council rejects idea of vaccine policy

Will advocate following of public health measures

by STEPHEN PETRICK
Special to the Times

Haliburton County won't have a firm vaccine policy for its staff, but councillors say the county will continue to advocate most public health guidelines, such as masking and distancing.

The thorough policy prepared by staff and delivered by Chief Administrative Officer Mike Rutter, died at the Wednesday, Feb. 9 council meeting, held virtually.

Councillors tensely debated the merits of a policy for more than half an hour, but ultimately decided that a mandate directing staff to be vaccinated presented too many legal

quagmires and seemed unnecessary, given the shifting nature of the pandemic.

The thought of going ahead with a policy seemed to shift when Rutter received and delivered advice that Ontario public health officials were recommending, but not mandating, municipalities have staff vaccine policies in place.

"We're just into crazy land here," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, summing up the frustration. "I don't know how we can pin the tail on the donkey without it being motherhood."

Many councillors offered their apologies to Rutter and staff for working on the policy, and none at the table voiced any objections to

see VACCINE page 3



Storm tie up Hurricanes

Highland Storm rep under-13 player Vanek Logan gets tied up by a Woodville Hurricanes player in minor hockey action on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. Logan scored the equalizer with 33 seconds left in the regulation, enabling the home team to tie the visitors 5-5. Other Storm goals were scored by Deagan Davison, Henry Neilson and Eric Mueller. See more photos on Page 16. /DARREN LUM Staff



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Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott, Peterborough-Kawartha MPP Dave Smith and YWCA Peterborough Haliburton executive director Kim Dolan announced more than \$200,000 in funding for the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton and the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre, in a virtual conference on Feb. 10./Screenshot

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton receives \$150,000 in funding

Two rural frontline agencies that support victims of domestic violence and human trafficking and have seen a growing demand for services during the pandemic will receive funding totalling \$205,000 from the provincial government.

The YWCA Peterborough Haliburton will receive \$142,949 to support the Haliburton Emergency SafeSpace (HERS) program, along with an additional \$8,272 for training initiatives. The Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre will receive \$55,088 to deliver crucial services and supports to survivors of human trafficking and women who have experienced violence.

On Feb. 10, Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock and Dave Smith, MPP for Peterborough-Kawartha met virtually with Kim Dolan, YWCA Peterborough Haliburton executive director to make the announcement.

"We all know the pandemic has been tough and it's not only tough on our businesses and healthcare systems but

also for women experiencing violence at home, and has caused a demand for increases in services and supports," said Scott. "This funding will provide agencies with more resources, help strengthen culturally responsive supports for Indigenous women, and reduce geographic and transportation barriers which will significantly improve access to quality care and services to victims in our rural and remote communities. Whether someone lives inside or outside of the town of Haliburton or Peterborough County, they should be able to access the same quality of services."

Smith applauded Scott for advocating for support for victims, as well as Dolan for designing programs to help.

Dolan said that as a result of the pandemic there were challenges with increased rates in domestic violence, with a gendered impact in terms of economic security and women with more caregiving responsibilities.

"It's become as we know a more complex time of tremendous uncertainty and who could have imagined that three years later we're still facing the challenges of the pandemic," she said. She noted that during the pandemic, many have faced uncertainty about their jobs, or how they can teach their kids at home and some more than others.

"It's exacerbated in rural and geographically isolated areas when access to services or even neighbours, when connecting with community is minimized," she said. "I think all of the factors we've collectively experienced throughout

the pandemic have magnified the reality and presence of gender-based violence. I think we've seen magnification of the really great things we've seen in our society and the things we need to work on."

When women living with violence are stuck at home, perhaps watching or teaching kids and unable to leave, the monitoring of their behaviour is increased and the situation becomes more complicated for women to reach out, and for services to reach in, said Dolan.

The HERS program, she said, is operating at full capacity, with 10 staff members, many who pick up shifts alongside jobs they have in aligned sectors. Dolan thanked the team of "incredible women who showed up every single day to do work with and beside and on behalf of women in our communities."

According to a press release from Scott's office, the funding is part of \$3.6 million the Ontario government is investing in rural frontline agencies to address the growing strain on services due to the pandemic, promote awareness of available local services, address service gaps and build community capacity to support women in rural and remote communities who have experienced violence and sex trafficking.

- Staff

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Times, Echo nominated for provincial newspaper awards



The *Minden Times* and *Haliburton County Echo* are finalists for several Better Newspaper Competition awards this year.

On Monday, Feb. 14, the Ontario Community Newspaper Association released its list of nominees for the annual competition that recognizes "outstanding work," with the *Minden Times* up for three honours.

The *Times* is a top-three finalist in the editorial writing category for an opinion piece by former editor Chad Ingram; for

best feature photo by Darren Lum, and Kim Wark has been nominated for Cartoonist of the Year in the competition for her Kwarky series.

The *Haliburton County Echo*, the *Times*'s sister paper, was nominated for five awards, including general excellence award in its circulation category. Sue Tiffin is nominated for three writing awards in the feature writing, health and wellness, and heritage categories. The *Echo* and *Times*'s humour columnist, Steve Galea, has been nominated for Humour Columnist of the Year in the competition.

The *Echo* received an honourable mention for best vertical product, the *Welcome to Haliburton County 2021* publication.

First, second and third place will be announced during a virtual presentation held Friday, April 29.

- Staff

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Vaccine policy loses support from county councillors

from page 1

COVID vaccines in general. But as the discussion lingered, it was clear that none of the eight voting councillors were in favour of the policy.

Warden Liz Danielsen allowed each councillor to share their thoughts; at the end a recorded vote wasn't necessary because the policy had clearly lost support from all voting members.

Council first started debating the policy during a meeting in November, but deferred a vote and asked staff to seek more legal opinions, such as how the policy should be implemented for new staff and how it would apply to an elected councillor who is unvaccinated.

Councillors made it clear that the nature of the pandemic

has changed dramatically since that meeting. They noted that other provinces are scaling back pandemic measures and the question of what is considered vaccinated (two doses or three doses) is also in question, so a policy mandating staff to be vaccinated was becoming more troubling than its worth.

"I don't think this is necessary to have at this point," said Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell, who was the first to speak up against the policy.

Moffatt, another strong critic of the plan, said she supports vaccines, but "I can't support job losses, that's going too far. We will never convince those who are unconvinced. There's no point in beating a dead horse."

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said, referring to the changing political landscape across the county, "I know we need to do this, but they're changing the rules so fast."

The proposed policy would have asked that "employees, council and committee members, volunteers, students and contractor employees who work in direct contact with county staff, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19."

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts suggested that the lost vote doesn't mean the county has to reject all public health measures; she pointed out that the policy was only to address vaccines and that the county can still advocate that its staff follow public health guidelines, such as masking and distancing.

Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy also said that it's important the county still work on a generic health and safety policy.

MH council approves safety and well-being plan, with concerns

by **NICK BERNARD**
Times Staff

Following an unveiling at Haliburton County council last month, a draft of the county-led community safety and well-being plan (CSWB) has made its way to Minden Hills.

Michael Rutter, chief administrative officer for the County of Haliburton, presented the plan to Minden's council at their meeting, held virtually on Feb. 8.

The purpose of this presentation was to get approval from Minden Hills for the plan and detachment board, as outlined in the CSWB plan. The plan requires approval and endorsement from all municipalities within Haliburton County.

Council voted to approve the plan and the requirements it outlines, but not without some concern.

"I just see that we've got a lot of words here that are terrific from a consultant's perspective and can sit on a shelf, and not really a lot of actions that are going to improve the health and well-being of the county," Councillor Bob Carter said, expressing what he felt was "consultant speak" on the language of the plan.

Per the act, municipalities are required to form an OPP detachment committee, whose main function will be to oversee and advise local OPP detachments on their performance. The board will also report on police performance to municipalities and First Nations council bands on an annual basis.

The seven-member board consists of mayors of each local municipality, county warden Liz Danielsen, one community representative as appointed by county council, and one provincial appointee.

"I support this, except for the governance," Councillor Pam Sayne said of the make-up of the plan's detachment board. "I think it's just too top-heavy with having four mayors in those positions, I think a paramedic should be there, and I think there should be at least two people represented from the community service organizations."

An advisory committee is also required, responsible for leading community engagement on, and monitoring and evaluating, the plan. Rutter reported that the advisory committee consists of representatives from local organizations like Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Point in Time, Canadian Mental Health Association, and local health units.

Work for the plan began in 2021, following the passing of the province's Community Safety and Policing Act. The act mandates all municipalities in the province to create a CSWB plan, with equitable policing serving as a main principle of the act.

Haliburton County's version of the plan will be adopted by all municipalities within the county, Minden included, and administered by the county itself.

According to the county's website, the plan's goal is to "achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and

where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression."

"We want to get away from incident response to risk intervention, then proactively reducing those identified risks, and then addressing the underlying causes of social issues," Rutter said. "It's our hope that the plan will result in enhanced communication and collaboration between agencies and organizations."

A report presented to county council in January stated, "between 2011 and 2016, the county experienced a population growth rate of 5.9 per cent, a rate above the provincial average of 4.6 per cent."

Between 2018 and 2020, violation against person crimes decreased by seven per cent from 150 to 140; whereas violation of property crimes increased by 11 per cent from 270 to 303 incidents. From 2017-2020 there was a slight uptick in 911 calls related to social disorder (e.g., domestic disputes, unwanted persons, keep the peace, and trespassing). There was a single reported hate crime in the county in 2020."

Rutter's full report to Minden council, along with a presentation on the CSWB plan, is available to view on the Minden Hills website at <https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Id=4844>.

With files from the Minden Times



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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

February 24 – Regular Council Meeting
March 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/. Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within the Township. Many opportunities include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development. Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca for a list of available jobs and how to apply.

FAMILY DAY WEEKEND CLOSURE

Minden Hills Council & Staff wish everyone a safe and happy Family Day weekend. Please enjoy the holiday responsibly and within the Provincial guidelines. Administration Office and services will be CLOSED on Monday, February 21st.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Please take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February, 24, 2022 during its Meeting of Council via web conference regarding proposed fee changes to its Fees and Charges By-law Cemetery Services Schedule G; and Community Services Programs & Facilities Schedule H; and the 2022 fees for the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails, Schedule B. More information can be found on the Township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

RIVERWALK & WETLANDS BOARDWALK – WINTER USAGE

The Boardwalk is closed for the season; Logger's Crossing Bridge is cleared of snow regularly but is not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to "Exercise Caution" when using these pathways as they could develop slippery conditions.

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Plastic bags are recyclable if they are stretchy (milk bags and grocery bags). If they don't stretch (pouches and chip bags), they belong in the garbage. Bundle all bags in one bag and place with your **paper recycling**.

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Multiple indicators showing Omicron wave plateau

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit press conference with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking, held virtually on Feb. 9.

“We are seeing multiple indicators that things are improving and that COVID-19 transmission is decreasing,” said Bocking. “[That’s] something we have been hesitant to say for sure but I think we do have multiple indicators that are looking like its moving in this direction, which really is a very welcome, welcome sign.”

At the time of the briefing, there were 184 active lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases, Bocking emphasizing that PCR testing remains limited to those who work or live in high-risk settings. A decrease in lab-confirmed cases has occurred throughout the region, down from greater than 100 or more cases identified per day to about 20 or 30 daily cases.

“Moving in the right direction,” said Bocking.

Test positivity has come down from about 12 per cent to 9.6 per cent and the HKPRD region is continuing to fare better than neighbouring jurisdictions, some of which still have test positivity rates higher than 10 per cent, said Bocking.

Nine outbreaks are currently in place, six of those at long-term care homes and the other three being at congregate settings or hospitals. Bocking said the health unit is now only declaring outbreaks in the highest risk settings, whereas before the Omicron wave outbreaks were also being declared within community settings, restaurants or among hockey teams, for example.

Tracking absenteeism in schools

Another factor Bocking said the health unit has been following to get a sense of overall general COVID-19 activity has been broader absenteeism in schools. She said the overall absenteeism percentage doesn’t necessarily mean kids are sick with COVID-19 or home with it. According to provincial guidelines, the health unit will send letters home if a school reaches a certain threshold of absences – 30 per cent – at this point a few weeks back into in-person learning, of the 60 publicly funded schools in the region, only two have received those letters.

“It’s really reassuring that we haven’t seen wider spread concerns related to absenteeism in schools, which I’m quite happy to report,” she said.

Wastewater surveillance

Wastewater surveillance in measuring viral activity in the Lindsay and Cobourg sewersheds has shown a relatively significant decline in viral activity, Bocking said.

“Again, leading to an overall much more optimistic picture,” she added.

As provincial restrictions begin to loosen as per the government’s reopening plan, Bocking said it might be possible to see a “slight increase” in COVID-19 infection.

“I don’t anticipate we’ll be going back to high numbers that we were seeing at the peak of this wave,” she said. “I think we should expect potentially a bit of plateauing, but [I’m] really reassured in terms of seeing the light at the end of the tunnel related to this Omicron wave.”

Impact of Omicron on morbidity, mortality

Bocking said looking at data from Jan. 1 gives a sense of the Omicron wave impact, given that it was likely the dominant variant by the third week of December.

Since the beginning of the year, 59 residents throughout the HKPRD region have been admitted to the hospital, 14 individuals have required ICU admission and there have been 23 deaths related to COVID-19.

Bocking stressed again that the majority of hospital and ICU admissions and deaths have been among individuals who are not vaccinated at all.

“Sharing these numbers to try and continue to encourage those individuals who have not sought vaccination yet to still do so, there’s still plenty of opportunity, and to reassure and remind people that for those people who have been vaccinated, the important role that you have played in helping to prevent more serious outcomes associated with COVID-19 and to decrease the burden on our hospital system overall.”

Almost 50 per cent of deaths have been among individuals 80 and older, and among those admitted to hospital, close to 58 per cent have been over the age of 70.

COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on the lives of seniors in the community, said Bocking.

At this point in time, since Jan. 1, 8.5 per cent of local hospital admissions have been of residents from long-term care homes, and 10 deaths related to COVID-19 of long-term care residents have occurred.

“We certainly understand the Omicron variant to have a lower risk of severe illness, we’re certainly not seeing the same extent of severe illness and death associated with COVID-19 as we did in the first wave, because we have vaccinations now and because we understand the virus better and we’ve been able to put in layers of protections to keep our most vulnerable community members safe.”

Easy access to vaccination clinics

A booster dose does improve protection against COVID-19,

specifically severe outcomes, said Bocking. She said the uptake of boosters across the province has contributed to preventing hospitalizations and death from Omicron.

Among those 70 and over across the HKPR region, 84.5 per cent have received their booster dose, while 72.3 per cent of people aged 50 and older have received their booster dose and 59.4 per cent of those aged 18 and older have received their booster dose.

Among kids aged five to 11, 47.4 per cent have received their first dose of vaccine.

Vaccination clinics are open for walk-ins at any time for any dose, for any aged individual, with both mRNA vaccines available at all of the clinics in the region.

A need for cautious optimism

“While things are improving it doesn’t mean we throw everything we’ve learned to the wind and pretend COVID’s not here because we know this is not a benign virus, it’s not mild by a long shot certainly for a large number of people so we need to be aware of that and work together to protect our most vulnerable community members,” said Bocking.

Bocking noted that over the past two years, the same cycle of making it through a wave, feeling optimistic and then having a new variant emerge has repeated.

“There’s certainly nothing right now to indicate that COVID is done,” she said. “I think we will continue to see COVID, but the key is how we’re able to manage COVID infections across the community and minimize the effect on the acute care system so we don’t have to cancel surgeries or limit other health services. It’s important to celebrate the small wins that we have and to be able to ease public health restrictions and hopefully look forward to a time where we won’t need public health restrictions because we’ll be managing COVID-19 on an ongoing basis and it doesn’t require drastic measures to prevent our acute system from becoming overwhelmed.”

As hard as the restrictions are, they do help to slow infection down, said Bocking.

“There are some things to celebrate that we’ve done well, some things to learn and some things to look forward to,” she said.

Showing support

Protesters acknowledge drivers honking their horns in approval of the student walkout at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School on Feb. 11 which took place from about 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Close to two dozen students and several adults participated in the protest, urging the lifting of provincial vaccine mandates. The event was part of an effort for a provincial-wide walkout at schools. /DARREN LUM Staff



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COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County							
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	9	0	378	368	5	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	91	1	3,332	3,181	94	60	13
Northumberland	55	2	2,977	2,897	74	25	0
Pending Information	1	0	26	25	0	0	0
Total	156	3	6,713	6,471	173	86	13

Confirmed COVID-19 cases

Three new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Haliburton County, 38 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in City of Kawartha Lakes and 22 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Northumberland County on Feb. 14, which includes data from Feb. 11. Due to limited access to testing, the number of reported cases of COVID-19 is an underestimate of community spread. /Screenshot from HKPRD health unit

School board optimistic about upcoming weeks

by NICK BERNARD
Times Staff

There appears to be a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, especially for students, teachers, and staff at Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB).

At their committee of the whole meeting on Feb 8, the board heard a number of reports from across its schools, with the discussions lingering less on COVID-19, and more on the future.

Superintendent Tim Ellis expressed a spike in enrolment, which tied into a number of plans already in place, including a facility renewal plan that will see a modernization of many school facilities, with the aim of accessibility and disability support.

"With the unexpected spike of students across the board ... staff contemplated the best way to look, or deal with that increased spike in terms of what it looks like going forward," Ellis said, describing the process in which the board reported this expected growth to the Ministry of Education. He said the amount of growth expressed to the province also took into account possible departures in September. "So what we did is we decided to be consistent with our pre-COVID trends, and keep the numbers on a conservative level."

This was done, Ellis said, to ensure that the upcoming budget remains, as he calls it, "realistic." Ellis said despite the enrolment growth, he reported a small drop in the number of students.

"Just giving anecdotally what we are expecting, [we're] expecting elementary to drift slightly lower over the next few years as we have seen pre-COVID, but it will be pretty stable. We haven't seen any drastic declines for a number of years," he said. "That being said, we are aware that there [are] a couple of substantial housing developments ... and we are waiting to see when those developments are coming online, as well as what type of buildings, and seeing what the yields are coming out of that."

For 2022 and 2023, Ellis said the projected number of stu-

dents across the board will be 11,151 at the elementary level, and 4,918 students at the secondary level.

Return to in-school learning going well

In a series of updates from across the system, board superintendents painted a vivid picture of the mood and overall flow of activity in schools following a number of developments coming out of the pandemic.

TLDSB director Wes Hahn characterized a sense of optimism during a school visit that day.

"To see the positive outlook, the positive excitement, the energy that's in our schools right now, very positive," Hahn said. He also commented on the successful implementation of the daily health assessment within schools, similarly characterizing it as a positive method of maintaining the quality of in-school learning.

Superintendent Paul Goldring provided a brief COVID-specific update, and expressed his own optimistic outlook.

"I'm very pleased to report that we have no schools and classes that have been pivoted to remote learning at this point," Goldring said. "We're continuing to work closely with our health units to monitor the percentage of student absences in our schools, and we're very optimistic about seeing things move in a positive direction in the next few weeks."

Goldring said there was a push to get vaccinations for students aged 5 to 11, with consent forms having been sent out to the families of those students. He said the health unit plans to conduct clinics based on where they see demand. Goldring also emphasized that no vaccinations will be given out without parental consent.

Adjusting to the new, old timetables

Secondary school students returned to a semestered, four-class-a-day schedule, following a condensed two-class quad-semester system. Superintendent Kim Williams presented a number of anecdotal quotes collected from the semester's first day on Feb 7.

“

To see the positive outlook, the positive excitement, the energy that's in our schools right now, very positive

— WES HAHN, TLDSB DIRECTOR

”

"Of course, with any of our best plans, there's always glitches that need to be worked through," Williams said, acknowledging that while many of the quotes Williams collected were optimistic, there were still wrinkles in the carpet.

"Wow, the first day went by so fast," said one quote.

"I had a great day; I honestly prefer a full semester from an academic perspective, I think it's much easier to learn what we need to from a full semester," said another.

Many of the concerns from students were of a social nature, especially around forming groups and navigating the hallways between classes.

"Younger students didn't know where to go, or where their lockers were. It all seemed so chaotic," one student expressed.

Williams also reported on the positive return of some low-impact, school-based extracurricular activities, with the return of inter-school competitions on the horizon.



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Vaccine business

THIS WEEK, Premier Doug Ford announced the March 1 end of the vaccine-certificate system in Ontario that has been in place at non-essential businesses since last September and an accelerated plan for lifting capacity limits.

At the beginning of February, Ontario health minister Christine Elliott had said there were “no plans currently to drop the [vaccine] passport situation or masking,” so some were surprised by Ford’s apparent change of plans and suggested he was caving to pressure by those involved in ongoing protests of public health measures throughout the province.

“Let me be very clear, we’re moving in this direction because it’s safe to do so,” said Ford. “Today’s announcement is not because of what’s happening in Ottawa or Windsor, but despite it.”

The accelerated lifting of the mandate, he said, is as a result of the receding fifth wave. The vaccine mandate in workplaces including hospitals and for visitors at long-term care homes remains in place.

We can’t deny that vaccine mandates, like them or not, have been effective in reducing transmission of virus and hospitalizations due to severe outcome of infection – additionally, they’ve encouraged people who hadn’t yet to get vaccinated.

Last week, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s chief public health officer, said: “We saw a plateau in the uptake of vaccines after a really tremendous effort by Canadians, and then after the introduction of vaccine mandates by the various provinces and territories and jurisdictions, we did see an uptick.”

The highly transmissible Omicron variant, however, has shown that two doses of vaccine still prevents severe outcome of infection, but that a booster dose offers more protection

against infection, severe illness and transmission – Ontario’s COVID-19 science advisory table has estimated a third dose of vaccine is more than 60 per cent effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infection. “Fully vaccinated” no longer means just two doses and recent data shows a booster dose protection could wane after a few months, so the requirements for a vaccine passport would need to be regularly updated – with more access to testing for verification of temporary protection from infection to be most effective. In Ontario, access to PCR testing became limited to only those in high-risk settings after Dec. 31.

Though businesses can open March 1 without a proof-of-vaccination system in place, they are able to keep the system in place, for now. It could be another difficult decision for our local business owners after two years of adapting, pivoting, and meeting new requirements often with little warning. Opening up to everyone might increase business and would reduce

the need for door check-ins. Many customers though have expressed a lack of consumer confidence in dining in-person without masks if they know that others indoors are unmasked and unvaccinated, saying they see the restrictions that have been in place as more of a protection – especially for the vulnerable and those under five who haven’t been vaccinated yet. But with staffing shortages, growing animosity for public health measures from some, and the fatigue that comes with running a business during a pandemic, keeping the vaccine requirement could be more of a hindrance than a help to businesses.

Everyone wants to do the right thing and the best thing. Whether or not your favourite shop or restaurant chooses to require vaccinations to enter, do what you can to support their choice, and most of all, their business.

**SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

Kwarky



“How do I turn off my camera?”

Tiny flies

THIS YEAR, while sitting at my fly-tying bench, I was faced with a disconcerting fact. Some of the flies I am tying are too small for me to use. This, and the call of a weak bladder after you put on your waders, are issues that every ageing fly angler must eventually face.

I can still tie tiny flies because I wear magnifying glasses at the bench. But, on the water, unless I take those ridiculous magnifiers with me, there’s no way I could thread the line through the eye of the hook.

Having said that, I will continue to tie tiny flies. Not out of vanity, mind you. But rather to gain a tactical advantage when fishing with my similarly aged angling pals. That’s what friends do.

I will have a special box filled with tiny flies in my fishing vest. It shouldn’t take up too much space.

And when I start catching trout to the point where my buddies ask me what I’m using, I will yell something like, “Prince nymph. Come on over I have plenty!”

There is no fly angler in the world who can resist a free fly – especially one that is catching fish.

But when they finally wade across the stream to get to those free flies, the trap will be sprung. I will offer up my box of tiny flies and pull out a Prince nymph that is a miniature version of the one I am currently using, which they will never see.

I should explain that fishing hooks are sized using a system in which the larger

the number the smaller the hook. So, I’d probably hand them a fly in size 18 initially, which is one size smaller than anything I could tie on.

The practical advantage is that it would take them forever to tie this tiny fly on, if they even could. And while they are doing that, I would be catching enough fish to tilt the biggest and most fish bets heavily in my favour.

The less obvious advantage is purely psychological. Without saying a word, I would convince them that I have the eyes of a hawk – which would definitely pay huge dividends. For instance, if I wanted someone’s fishing spot, I would simply look way half a kilometre downstream and yell, “Holy cow! Did you see that huge trout roll?”

This and “lunch is on me” are the two sentences that no trout angler has ever ignored. Having got their attention, I would then yell “Whoa! Did you see it roll again in the run by the big boulder?”

There’s no way any of my pals are going to say they didn’t.

And soon, they will slowly slip off to steal the spot, leaving me with a variety of options and them with a mythical fish.

Of course, it could backfire. Maybe one of those guys might be able to tie on a size 18, for all I know. If that’s the case, I’ll use the size 20 next time, until I have found the limits of their dexterity and eyesight.

Eventually, I’ll get to the point where I am handing them a tiny piece of lint and calling it a size 24 dry fly. Won’t that be a sight for sore eyes.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Xi and Bobby McGee

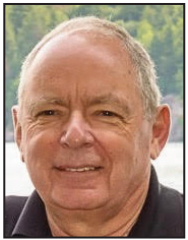
I SHOULDN'T have had that extra glass of wine before going to bed. I savoured it while watching the news, forgetting that late-night wine and late-night news combine to give me nightmares.

News of the Russian takeover threat to Ukraine, plus the truckers' anti-government protests must have triggered my bad dream.

I dreamed that Russian president Vladimir Putin and China's president Xi were smiling, shaking hands and agreeing to invade not just the Ukraine, but the U.S. and Canada. They said autocracies make the world a nicer place.

The invasions went smoothly. Canada and the U.S. succumbed within a couple of days.

This was easily accomplished because the Canadian forces had no arms or ammunition, having donated it all to the Ukrainians. American forces were either too sick with COVID-19, or too busy arguing whether to support Biden or Trump, to offer any effective resistance.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Immediately after the takeover, Putin appeared on CNN reassuring Americans they would be treated well and their former presidents would be given opportunities to rebuild their nation.

"Donald Trump has been appointed minister responsible for Remaking America Great Again with Communism," Putin announced.

Joe Biden was assigned to see that all Afghans were returned home to Afghanistan.

George Bush was given the job of ensuring that evangelicals understand that Communism is an improvement over white supremacy.

Bill Clinton was put in charge of state birth control and Jimmy Carter was assigned to head the new Communist Peanut Co-operative.

Barack Obama was ignored because the Russians said he had a weird name. Meanwhile in Ottawa, China's top People's Liberation Army general addressed the protest blockade on Parliament Hill.

"There is no need to protest about your rights and freedoms," the general shouted into a loudspeaker. "You don't have any. There is no need for that stuff in a People's Republic."

As he finished speaking, bulldozers and cranes cleared the blockade of trucks and garbage put up by the protesters. Then a flatbed truck carrying a rock band appeared, blaring music that drowned out the Peace Tower clock chimes as it drifted past the Parliament buildings.

The lead singer appeared to be Anne Murray belting out a revised version of Janis Joplin's *Me and Bobby McGee*.

Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose,

Nothin', that's all Justin did for me

But feeling good is easy pal, when Putin makes me free

And feeling good is good enough for me . . .

Good enough for me under President Xi.

I woke up sweating and yelling but soon calmed down, happy to be back to reality. I went downstairs, made coffee and turned on the morning TV news.

There was little new from the night before. The truckers' revolt continued in Ottawa and other cities, shutting down manufacturing plants and putting people out of work.

World COVID deaths hit 11,000 a day and now totalled almost six million. Iran was close to having a nuclear bomb. A gun violence site reported U.S. gun deaths now are running at more than 115 a day.

Another item reported that 50.5 million children under five are acutely malnourished, many because global warming was killing agriculture. It also said that in Asia alone, as many as eight million kids are being forced into begging and child labour because their parents cannot afford to buy enough food.

Meanwhile in Canadian news there were reports of teens killing other teens, rampant drug abuse, a shocking rise in mental illness and an even more shocking rise in the prices of consumer goods.

Then there was a video clip of Trump endorsing the truckers' revolution and calling Trudeau a far-left lunatic who ruined Canada.

There was no rebuttal from Trudeau, who had not been seen since Groundhog Day. Some commentators said he had seen his shadow, which forecast six more weeks of trucker blockades.

I clicked off the TV and poured the coffee down the sink drain. Then I did what seemed a reasonable thing to do in a world gone mad:

I reached up into a cupboard and pulled down a new bottle of wine.



The view from here

A day with the sun shining made for a beautiful view on Bobcaygeon Road. /Photo by Guenter Horst

letters to the editor

There is policing and then there's policing

To the Editor,

Do Canadian police forces respond similarly or differently to right versus left social movement protests, and civil disobedience?

Many large trucks have effectively shut down central Ottawa and been supported elsewhere. Initially the vaccine mandate for cross-border truckers was the sole issue. The movement was quickly and cleverly co-opted by a far right anti-government agenda aided by ex-RCMP and military strategists, and south of the border funding.

Canadian media has closely followed police response to the occupations:

"RCMP and CSIS view a number of activist activities – particularly civil disobedience – as forms of attack. Blocking access to roads or buildings are framed as violence, depicting pacifists as national security threats." (*The Narwhal*)

"More than 1,100 people were arrested when thousands of police cracked down on protesters. An alarming number of incidents of illegal arrests, detentions and police brutality." (CBC)

RCMP deployed surveillance, militarized police patrols, helicopters, drones, heat-sensing cameras and a "media exclusion zone." Assault rifles were hidden on approach because the "optics" of the weapons were "not good." Children and elderly could be arrested. "No exception, everyone will be arrested in the area," necessary

for "sterilizing [the] site." Instructions to "use as much violence as you want" and that "lethal overwatch" (deadly force approval) is required" were issued. (*The Guardian*)

Wait, my mistake! The above speak to police response to left social movements and protests as follows: old growth forests in B.C., the G20 in Toronto, and the peaceful Wet'suwet'en Nation opposing a pipeline through their unceded territory.

Trucker protest coverage appears below:

It was (an injunction initiated by) a 21-year-old resident ... who stopped the constant blaring of truck horns, not the Ottawa mayor or the police. (CTV)

"...there are illegal activities taking place ... that violate both Criminal Code and provincial laws," RCMP. (CTV)

Alberta RCMP referred to soft enforcement including ticketing, "you can't arrest your way out of the choices that people are making." (CBC)

Not convinced? Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam has the final word: "If it was a First Nation standoff or blockade, I guarantee you the RCMP would have been in there in the first hour" (*Toronto Star*).

John Gibb
Minden

HCPL's DVD of the Month - February

Steve Carell and Tina Fey star in this lively and amusing rom-com about an ordinary couple who find themselves in the right place, on the wrong night. Phil and Claire Foster are a



sensible suburban husband and wife slogging through their daily lives and fearing that their marriage may be stuck in a rut. To spice things up a little during their weekly date night, they impetuously steal a dinner reservation, causing a hair-raising case of mistaken identity that sets off an outrageous chain of events involving small-time thieves, big city mobsters, corrupt cops, and a crazed cabbie. If they can survive this wacky, life-threatening ordeal, they may just rediscover the spark that's gone missing from their marriage ... or die trying! Directed by Shawn Levy, the film co-stars Mark Wahlberg, James Franco, and Kristen Wiig. Check out *Date Night* from Haliburton County Public Library today. It's the perfect choice for a date night of your very own!

Gym grant gathering

A \$150,000 capital grant awarded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation in 2019 was put to use at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena for a project completed in January. The grant allowed the township to add a new stage, purchase new fitness equipment, four sets of posts and nets, retractable basketball backstops, a roll up divider curtain for the gym and mobile equipment storage racks, tables and chairs. From left, Tanya Budgen, manager of parks, recreation and facilities; Craig Belfry, director of community services; Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock; Brent Devolin, Minden Hills mayor and Bob Carter, Minden Hills councillor met on Feb. 15 to see the results of the funding.



Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, takes a shot in the gym at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. /NICK BERNARD Staff

Extendicare plans new long-term care home

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

A new long-term care home building is expected to be built in Haliburton County, with almost 70 new beds added, by 2025. The project will enable Extendicare to replace its current facility and build a brand new 128-room long-term care home at a yet unchosen site.

Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock made the announcement about funding for new and refurbished beds virtually on Feb. 14 alongside Paul Calandara, minister of long-term care, Liz Danielsen, warden of Haliburton County and Dr. Michael Guerriere, president and CEO of Extendicare Inc.

Guerriere said the beds will more than double the capacity of Extendicare in the area. A new home on a new site is being planned with construction expected to start in fall 2023 and current residents and staff will move to that building once it is built, with plans for additional staff and residents with the increase in capacity.

While a site location has not yet been chosen, Guerriere said there were several options being looked at, and he anticipated the project to be completed in less than three years.

Currently there are 60 beds at Haliburton's Extendicare, which is located at 167 Park Street in Haliburton.

"We know the pandemic has highlighted the longstanding challenges that faced the long-term care sector for decades, and that's why we're continuing to deliver on our prom-

ise to fix long-term care across the province, including here in Haliburton County," said Scott at the announcement.

She said the provincial government's "plan to fix long-term care" is built on three pillars: improving staffing and care; protecting residents through better accountability, enforcement and transparency; and building modern, safe and comfortable homes for seniors, noting today's announcement focuses on the third goal.

She thanked the frontline staff at Extendicare Haliburton for "their hard work and dedication to resident care throughout the pandemic," and "their tireless efforts, every single day."

"Our government has a plan to fix long-term care and a key part of that plan is building modern, safe, and comfortable homes for our seniors," said Calandara, in a press release issued after the announcement. "When this long-term care home in Haliburton is completed, 128 residents will have a new place to call home, near their family and friends."

Calandara said during the briefing that "a home isn't a home until we have the staff inside the homes to make it that," and reiterated a past announcement of investing in additional direct care per day per residents with an increase of staff.

Danielsen said the county was excited about the announcement, saying the issue of long-term care improvement is critical.

"This is something that the Eastern Ontario warden's caucus has been putting a great deal

of emphasis on over the last several years, and to see the province responding to this need in such a timely way is truly gratifying," she said. "I understand the issue of available land remains undecided and the county will do all it can to assist Extendicare to find an appropriate location."

"This home will be built with state-of-the-art design standards to meet the current and future needs of seniors," said Guerriere. "It will offer more space to connect with loved ones, increased privacy and a comfortable environment more conducive to resident quality of life. Enhanced resident activity areas and flexible space for restorative and palliative services will make a meaningful difference in the care seniors receive in this community."

Guerriere said with the support of the province, Extendicare has been able "to make significant steps toward our goal of replacing all of our older homes in Ontario."

He said Extendicare Inc. has committed \$400 million of investment to construct six new homes elsewhere in the province, and the re-developed home in Haliburton County will add another \$41 million in investment to that total. Extendicare is also providing placements for 1,600 students in 2022, he said, to help with the effort to educate and support new caregivers.

Along with the 68 new and 60 upgraded beds allocated to Extendicare Haliburton, the government also announced an additional 96 new beds at an Extendicare home in Lindsay.



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Province ending vaccine passport mandates

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Ontario is scrapping its proof-of-vaccination system as of March 1 and has moved up the second stage of the province's reopening plan by four days on Feb. 17.

Premier Doug Ford, who made the announcement during a press conference at Queen's Park on Monday, said capacity limits will be lifted in all settings where a proof of vaccination is required, including restaurants and cinemas.

Businesses can maintain mandates, and masking requirements will remain in place. Proof-of-vaccination will still be a requirement for visitors and staff at long-term care facilities. Any further restrictions will be determined by local public health units.

Ford said these latest measures are not the

result of the occupation in Ottawa or the border blockade in Windsor.

"Today's announcement is not because of what's happening in Ottawa, or Windsor, but despite it," he said.

The exception to the end of capacity limits will be sporting venues, concert venues and theatres, which will have capacity limits increased to 50 per cent. The province will allow social gatherings of 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors. Capacity limits for other indoor public settings, which includes grocery stores, pharmacies and retail stores, will remain the same or be increased to the number of people who can stay two meters apart.

The provincial vaccine certificate system, requiring people to show proof of receiving two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to enter a non-essential business was launched in September.

Staff shortages could cause temporary library closures

Board members broach topic of reducing number of branches

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

Library patrons are being asked to ensure the branch they're headed to is open prior to visiting, as temporary closures could occur due to staffing shortages.

Chris Stephenson, Haliburton County Public Library CEO and chief librarian, told the library board at a Feb. 9 meeting that since he joined in September, branch staff has decreased from 16 employees to 10.5 (one person has shared duties in the administration office).

"We've dodged a lot of bullets in the time that I've been here," he told the board. "COVID notwithstanding, we've also had plenty of absences, retirements, people scaling back their hours for study or other purposes and then of course COVID - fears of exposure within families, through the schools and other workplaces. All of this has come to mean that, it's putting pressure on the number of people we have, the number of slots we need to fill in order to keep the branches staffed adequately."

The library system requires at least 11 staff members to operate six active branches, and one depot of library lockers.

"That's not a comfortable amount, however," Stephenson told the *Times*. "With 10.5 staff, we have no extra staff members standing by in case someone has a transportation issue or calls in sick on any given day. Many of our branch staff were hired with an expectation of helping us fill on-call hours, but when the pool has diminished, those people are filling regularly scheduled shifts and there's simply no one else to call on."

Stephenson said admin staff has stepped in when possible to staff the branches, but that results in their own work being put aside. He is also being briefed on using the integrated library system himself so he can assist where and when possible.

Some patrons have reached out to Stephenson, dissatisfied that curbside service only had been available at some branch-

es due to restrictions and public health measures during the province's modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen in January.

"We did fully intend to bring those branches back online for browse and borrow, but of course if there's no one physically to be there for either curbside or stationing themselves at the branch ... I just need to be honest," he said. "We don't have enough people."

Stephenson said hiring is the long-time goal, and he has put in a request with the county to fill 2.5 positions. His focus, he said, is to re-establish what existed years ago with community members living and working near the branch "serving their communities" in branches there, rather than staff driving across the county to work shifts, and driving mileage up.

"We really hope to hire people in Cardiff, Highland Grove, Gooderham, to manage those branches," he said.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, who sits on the library board, asked if the staffing challenge is temporary, or if it's "developing segue into the elephant in the room which needs to be discussed, which is how many branches can stay open in perpetuity in the current climate and under the current budget."

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen said it was important to talk about the number of branches in the county, noting that Highlands East has four branches and circulation is not high in some of them.

"We need to face the fact that something has to give," she said. "That's not taking away from the fact that we want local people in local branches, but I think that's the perfect solution. Can we continue to support four branches in Highlands East?"

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said it's a difficult conversation, one that has been broached in years past, but said "this is the time to be having this discussion, it really is."

Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall said there was no question the discussion needed to be had, but questioned if late into the library's board meeting that day was the time to have it.

"I don't disagree that it needs to be discussed," he said.

"But I also am saying that this is not the meeting to do that in. I think we need to set up a separate meeting, where we look at what options are available. Things that have been tried here, things that have been tried in other places that replace it, and that would be the sole subject for that particular meeting."

He said there would not be support from Highlands East to justify closure, but that a discussion about "alternate supply, alternate resources, different ways of getting things done, that would be silly not to discuss."

Stephenson said he did not expect the discussion to "go in this direction," but understood the history of the local library system and challenges faced post-amalgamation.

"I did speak with a community member from Highlands East just this morning and he reiterated how important the library was to him and the fact that he needed to be able to walk there," Stephenson said. "I understand there are some challenges. But what I can bring to the table in a future meeting is statistics, and facts about where we're at currently. And also offer some advice about what could be done."

Board chair Sally Howson suggested setting that discussion aside as an agenda item slated for a separate meeting, in which information on which to base the discussion could be brought forward including alternatives for service delivery that hadn't been available in the past.

Board member David O'Byrne acknowledged that numerous public sector organizations in Haliburton County are currently dealing with staff shortages and temporary closures.

"This is not uncommon, we're not unique, and if we have to close, we have to close," he said of the potential for temporary closures. "There's nothing we can do about it."

Regarding temporary branch closures due to staff shortages, Stephenson told the *Times*: "As with weather conditions, we advise that people check our website or social media before heading out to their local branch. And this is important in the coming weeks, to make sure a branch isn't closed due to staff shortages. In each case of a closure, the banner at the top of our website (at haliburtonlibrary.ca) will be changed to indicate whether a branch is impacted."

Pandemic makes pancake business do remarkable flip

by **STEPHEN PETRICK**
Special to the *Times*

Indoor dining is out and outdoor dining is in at Wintergreen Maple Products and Pancake Barn, a beloved long-time business along Gelert Road.

But it's not a story to sob about, insisted its charismatic and talkative owner Tom Dawson. He said the story of his food business's change is just more proof that when there's crisis, there's also opportunity.

"We're branching out and turning over a new leaf," said Dawson, delivering one of many quotable quotes in a phone interview where subjects ranged from Chinese proverbs, to world religions, to the history of the pickle.

He shared that Wintergreen has been in business for 35 years and has a loyal base of customers, who often shopped in their retail space and ate products indoors. The business, located at 3325 Gelert Rd., is also run by Tom's wife, Diane, and their son, Ryan, and daughter, Kate.

When the Delta variant spread last fall and the business could not allow eating inside, he and his family set up picnic tables and worked to establish an inviting outdoor space for customers. They found that they were saving on utilities and utensils and many customers were enjoying their "Garden of Eaten."

They found that doing business this way was more beneficial for themselves and their customers. Dawson found that, due to re-construction of the highway and rising population in the county, their business seemed to be in a position to benefit from a new way of doing business. They started making plenty of money on takeout, which they hadn't offered before.

"Everything that we're doing here is unconventional," he said. "It's crazy until it works, then it's genius."

The business, Dawson explained, is open by appointment during the winter. It's now getting ready for maple syrup season and expects to be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekend in March and April. After syrup season it expects to re-

open its BBQ and patio for weekends, from May to October.

Dawson prides himself on offering customers a unique experience, saying that his business is a place where storytelling happens. He can talk at length about unique marketing strategies and brain-twisting philosophies. He said, once while vacationing in Cuba, he started talking to a woman who recognized him as "the guy in Gelert who talks a lot."

"In a world, that is supposedly more connected, people are more isolated and distanced than they've ever been in the history of the planet," he said. "People have to have contact. The reality is here, because we're in a hole, you can't get Internet access. You'd think that was a bad thing, but people can't be distracted by it and you can talk to them."

He believes his customers come because they not only love the food products, but hearing the stories behind them and hearing about what makes Wintergreen a special place.

"It's the intangible that sells the product, it's not the product itself," he said.

Tom and Diane Dawson have owned Wintergreen, located at 3325 Gelert Rd., for 35 years. Last week they announced they're changing their business structure, and will no longer open their pancake restaurant inside. Instead, frozen Wintergreen breakfast products will be available to make at home, and during the syrup season the retail shop will be open, with outdoor BBQ being offered in May through to October. "Indoor is out, and outdoor is in," read their announcement.

/Photo submitted





Ontario is getting stronger

Across the province, more workers are joining the skilled trades as resources and industries in the north become part of the future of clean steel and electric vehicles.

More jobs are being created by building new bridges and highways, expanding public transit and constructing new homes—all for a growing province. Home-grown businesses are manufacturing more of the things we rely on.

Ontario's economy is getting stronger. See what's happening at ontario.ca/stronger

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Former Dorset resident Esther Fortney celebrated the weekend prior to her 100th birthday in Whitby on Feb. 14. While in Dorset she worked as an assistant librarian for the Dorset branch of the Haliburton County Public Library, and volunteered as a member of the Lions Club at times serving as the president, secretary and bulletin editor. /Photo submitted

Long-time Dorset Lion, Esther Fortney, turns 100

by **STEPHEN PETRICK**
Special to the Times

A remarkable woman who helped the Dorset Lions Club roar for many years is now 100 years young.

Esther Fortney turned 100 years old on Feb. 14. She celebrated the milestone birthday with a few friends at her new retirement home, The Court at Pringle Creek, in Whitby.

Esther spent much of her working life in Toronto, where she ran a food operation and worked as a legal secretary.

In her retirement years, she moved to the Dorset area and became an integral part of the local Lions Club, over a span of about 35 years. Her husband, Gino Ballestrin, who died in 2020, was a past president and was involved in the construction of the clubhouse. Esther also served stints as the president, secretary

and bulletin editor.

She was known for other roles in the community too; for 17 years she worked as an assistant librarian for the Dorset branch of the Haliburton County Public Library.

Esther's friend and fellow Lion, John Shepherd, described her as a sweet and incredibly smart woman, who has remained sharp and has kept a great sense of humour and love for life, throughout her many years.

"She likes to look out the window and do crosswords. She also likes to watch, hockey and baseball and play solitaire," Shepherd said.

He and a fellow Lion travelled to Whitby to help her celebrate her birthday with staff and fellow guests at The Court at Pringle Creek.

"She's doing really well, she's a sweetheart," he said.



A photo of Esther Fortney in her earlier years. /Photo submitted

Summer Festival auditions begin next week

by **NICK BERNARD**
Times Staff

According to Konstantin Stanislavski's theory of theatre, there are no small parts, only small actors. Here in Haliburton County, the search for actors big and small is on, ahead of the 2022 season of the Highlands Summer Festival. Auditions begin Feb 26 and 27 at Haliburton United Church.

This year's festival season is carrying over the program from 2020, which was delayed due to the pandemic. The lineup includes beloved musical *The Sound of Music*, Oscar Wilde's comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and one-person show *Every Brilliant Thing*. Two other shows, *Lucien* and *Across The Pond* will also be taking the stage, with commissioned performers for each.

"We're looking for the two leads in the *Sound of Music*, Maria and the Captain," festival artistic director Scot Denton told the *Times*, "And all of the kids."

It's a sad story, Denton said, as the festival had cast those roles in 2020, only to have to defer. Casting for the children is particularly difficult, as the original actors have almost certainly grown in the two years that have passed.

"I said to the kids, you know, I'd like you to be able to play this role when we come back to do the show, but you're going to grow," Denton recalled, drawing the image of the seven Von Trapp kids arranged by age in descending order. "And part of the drama-slash-comedy of the Von Trapp family kids is that when they come in, they're like a set of stairs."

By far the most experimental piece in the festival's lineup is *Every Brilliant Thing*.

Denton said the play was centered around a character who decides to write a list of things in life worth living to read to their struggling mother. The part, which Denton says is open to anyone regardless of gender, requires a constant stage presence, with participation from the audience.

"You have to have the right person," Denton said, describing the part. "They have a script, but they have to be prepared to think on their feet ... At one point, the narrator person asks somebody to be his father, and they have to pick someone in the audience."

Denton says that of the 20-odd possible roles across all of the plays, ten are already cast from before the two-year delay.

"We have a lot of roles to cast right now, much more than I thought," he said.

For those unfamiliar with the auditioning process, Denton says anyone interested can expect the process to be friendly and relaxed, but will also try to draw the best performance out of everyone.

"They would expect us to be friendly and welcoming, and [wanting] them to just take a breath," Denton explained. "Usually if they're auditioning for the musical, we need to hear them sing something, even if it's ... the first few bars of *O Canada*, you know, just to hear the sound. If we think they're right for a role, we often ask them to take away a little bit of a scene, read it through a bunch of times, and come back in the room later on and read through it with us."

Denton also always encourages new faces at auditions.

"We love meeting new people. Sometimes

people who have never been on stage before turn out to be very, very good at it," he said. "And they get a lot of support and training from us ... It's the training you get when you rehearse, like you learn from other actors and you learn from the director, and there's a lot

of support."

A full list of roles, and a full rundown of the 2022 season of the Highlands Summer Festival, is available to view at www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca



Ducks take to water

A pair of male common goldeneye ducks go for a paddle on the Gull River in Minden./Photo by June Krisko

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Keith Stata takes a moment to reflect in his Highlands Cinemas, during filming of a documentary about Keith, his movie theatre, his movie memorabilia collection and business in the time of pandemic. /Photo by Scott Ramsay



Keith Stata's Highlands Cinemas the focus of new documentary

by **JERELYN CRADEN**
Special to the Times

Keith Stata, the pied piper of movies and creator of the landmark Highlands Cinemas in Kinmount stars in a new documentary, *The Movie Man*. After celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2019, then shuttered due to COVID over the past two years, his beloved 18,500 square foot five-plex destination cinema and its 4,000 square foot museum is under threat. Now, with *The Movie Man* trailer just released and available for public viewing, we are reminded why its survival is important not only for movie goers, but also for the economies of Kinmount and its neighbouring communities.

"I grew up going to the Highlands Cinemas," said Matt Finlin, *The Movie Man* director whose family have been cottagers in the Highlands since he was a boy. "The kernel for the documentary started with me going there to film a little vignette on a theatre that inspired me to do what I do, as a creative project. When I was there, I discovered that it was much more than that. COVID has been a terrible thing for most people. Small businesses around the world have collapsed or been on the edge of collapse due to the pandemic. That really provided the stakes for the movie, outside of showcasing the unique theatre and its proprietor. What does the threat of losing this business mean for cinema in general and small towns that rely on a business such as Keith's to draw people there?"

Andrea O'Shea, supervising producer, Ballinran Entertainment (in co-production with Finlin's Door Knocker Media) said, "It's hard enough for a huge conglomerate to stay open, let alone an independent cinema like Keith's. I think this next season will be a part to this story. It's either going to make or break Keith, in a sense. It could be the ending of the documentary. The next part of the story for Keith and for the film."

Stata told of a cushion of money that he had counted on in order to re-open the cinema.

"In 1977, I legally severed a building lot off of this property with access to the highway. There was a condition that it had to be sold within two years," Stata said. "One year later, it was sold and registered. I accepted \$45,000 because I figured it would be \$10,000 to put the driveway in. And, all of a sudden, the city said, we're not going to give



Keith Stata changes the marquee outside of Highlands Cinemas in Kinmount, noting the closure of the movie theatre during the pandemic. /Photo by Matt Finlin

you an entrance. So, that \$50,000 went down the toilet. The city is saying they changed the by-law and good luck to you. So, the lot's no good anymore. That's the \$50,000 I counted on to get the theatre open that just went in the ditch."

Asked if re-opening was strictly a money issue, Stata said, "It doesn't matter how many COVID mandates you remove, are people ready to go back and sit in a crowded theatre with other people? Are they ready?"

Despite his scepticism, need for funding, and massive amount of work it will take to get the cineplex ready for business, Stata said he will try to open on May 6.

Meanwhile, Finlin and O'Shea are shopping the trailer to broadcasters like Netflix and Crave.

"The real goal," O'Shea said, "is to show highlights of Keith's story and the evolution of the cineplex and memorabilia museum and bring it to broadcasters and hopefully, one of them will pick it up to enable us to finish it."

There is no lack of colour in the stories Stata tells about his rare inventory of museum treasures.

"In 1896," he said, "Louis Lumiere and his brother, Auguste, showed the first motion picture in Paris. They met Siegmund Lubin who talked them into making a projector for them. That projector is here."

Without taking a breath, he continued. "The 1900 Edison's to 1910, all the machines that Edison made, are here. Edison got out of the projector business because he said," Stata laughed, "there is no money in movies." Another: "The projector from Irving Berlin's screening room, is here. The cutting boards that David Cronenberg used to do his early movies, are here."

"Western Electric is AT&T," Stata said. "In 1996, I got a call from New York City. They heard a rumour that I had the Western Electric universal basis, which is the first talking picture. They didn't believe me, so they flew the guy up. We sold them one of their inventions from 1926 and they put it in their display."

Stata is also the Prince of Cats. As caretaker and provider for 48 rescue cats, he buys over 5,000 cans of food a year and has built an extensive system of enclosed cat bridges, play areas, and cat apartments for their comfort and enjoyment.

"What people don't know is," Stata said, "it's 40 hours a week looking after the cats. In the winter time, I burn eight bush cords of wood, I have 900 feet of paths that need to be kept clear and salted. I spend my time sorting through the collection and getting stuff done, and there's maintenance. I had to finish a roof by myself, there's a lot of work to be

done to get open. We have to put the drapes back, a million things to do. Normally, there was help, now there's no help, so I'm doing it by myself. I was working 99 hours a week until Christmas."

"We take going to the theatre for granted," O'Shea said. "We show up, we buy a ticket, we get our snacks and we sit down and enjoy a movie. But, when you see the parts in *The Movie Man* trailer when Keith had to deal with a mould issue and the time and energy it took to resolve it, and the seasonality of the theatre ... we pay respect to the work he does there."

Finlin emphasized, "Right now, it's about getting the funding we need to finish the film. It's a larger story than just its value for the county. There is not a theatre like the Highlands Cinemas anywhere in the world, but what is similar is that many small business people have suffered through the pandemic and what effect its closing could have on the town and on Keith's life. I think it's a story we can all relate to even if we haven't been to his theatre."

You can watch *The Movie Man* trailer through the e-version of this story on the *Minden Times* website.

To apply for work at the Highlands Cinemas please send a resume to: keithstata@nexi-com.net. Or call Keith at 705-488-2199.

Upcoming caregivers workshop offers support, advice

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Mickey Bonham said looking beyond the challenges of caring for a loved one is an important lesson she learned from her experience with her late-husband Glen, who lived a full life and loved Haliburton.

Married for 22 years, the Highlands resident was a caregiver to Glen for five years, which included two years of “major caregiving.”

This included numerous hospital visits, surgeries, with stays for weeks at a time for medical procedures in Peterborough. It was stressful for both in different ways. For her it was the mental gymnastics of handling issues alone, which used to be taken on together, and for him it was the guilt that comes with knowing your loved one is doing it alone.

At the start, the caregiving was related to a heart surgery and a recovery period of close to eight months. The demands increased a year later when Glen was diagnosed with cancer. Although he was physically capable for the most part, the caregiving took its toll in other ways, but without family in the county to help it was the support of friends, who could share their experience going through similar situations that truly helped Mickey through the adversity.

“So I had a couple of really good friends who were very helpful because I could ask them questions and they could let me know what their experience was and it might not have been exactly the same as mine, but it would be close enough that it was helpful,” she said. The perspective gained by sharing and being with others enables people to see a different way of looking at something, which can be optimistic, or even “more realistic.”

“If it’s just the two of you up here and you don’t have children up here they’re all in the city or wherever, you know, it is a very lonely kind of experience. It can be and if you don’t reach out to other people, like your friends, etc ... you find yourself really getting to be feeling alone all the time because there is so much that you have to tend to and look after by yourself. You’re used to doing everything as a couple,” she said.

This goes beyond the caregiving, which includes the stress associated with medical appointments, but can also include simple maintenance practices at the home, and related to the upkeep of the family vehicle.

An upcoming Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop not only enables an opportunity for caregivers to come together for support, but it will also ensure caregivers do what they can for self-care said the Home and Community Care Support Services Central East’s senior manager Trish Topping.

“And that looks different for everybody, but helping people to navigate how do they take care of their own health based on their own health and their own needs. We’re really trying to keep people healthy, so that they’re able to continue on in their role and they’re not ending up in a role where they’re then needing care as well,” Topping said.

The workshop is a collaboration between the self-management program central east and the Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

Topping adds there’s a really high rate of depression and anxiety among caregivers.

“So bringing in more of the activities that they want to do, bringing in more joy and just leading to an overall improved quality, quality of life,” she said.

This isn’t just beneficial for the caregiver, but provides help for those being cared for.

It’s been seven years since Mickey’s husband Glen died from cancer in 2015 and she remembers how her husband felt happier when he knew she had support.

“I remember Glen feeling good about the fact that I had good friends that I could talk to because he always felt so badly because he was putting me through all of this, right? And so if there was a support group or workshop going on that I was attending that would be the same thing. He would feel good and he would feel that that was something that was helping,” she said.

Pre-register for the free six-week workshop starting Feb. 24 by calling 1-866-971-5545. Held Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., the series of workshops will be delivered online on the Zoom platform. The workshop requires the use of a

computer, including a camera and audio setup to participate. Participants will learn about looking after oneself, using community resources, creating an action plan, share experiences and learn from others in the workshop, learn about managing caregiving stress, taking action: stress reducers, develop methods to be assertive and not aggressive, listening to emotions, dealing with depression, understand the transition process, planning for future goals and how to implement.

The perspective gained through a group met through a workshop is an aspect that Mickey would have appreciated had she been given the opportunity to participate in this workshop.

“When you’re going through this you’re so focused on what’s happening day-by-day, and all the appointments, all the travelling, all the medications, all the nurses coming and going here at the house that I think, possibly, it would have helped. If I had a group like that to go to it would have helped me to get beyond just that day-to-day struggle ... because there would have been people in the group that were at different stages and maybe you would see that there is a transition. But you get to be so focused on just what you have to do to get through each day. That I think being able to talk to someone in a structured way would [have been] helpful,” she said.

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Enjoying Haliburton County’s winter finches

by ED POROPAT
Special to the Times

For those interested in birds, 2022 has been a wonderful year so far for bird diversity. With excellent cone crops available locally on spruce, hemlock, and tamarack, many birds such as finches have reacted to the food abundance and irrupted into the region. We have been fortunate this winter to observe several species that don’t normally visit our area, adding pleasure and a splash of colour to the snowy landscape. Let’s meet a few of these feathered friends.



Pine grosbeak /Photos by Ed Poropat

Pine grosbeak

This relatively large, robin-sized bird is a denizen of the northern boreal forest. It is only observed here in winter, and only in certain years when food is scarce in the north. Although they eat seeds and will readily come to feeders for black oil sunflower seeds, they primarily react to fruit crops, particularly relishing mountain ash berries. When mountain ash fails to produce a good crop across the north, these birds move south in search of food. This winter, pine grosbeaks are a regular sight in Haliburton County. They often come down onto sanded roads to gather grit to help digest their food. The males are a spectacular rose colour, and even the “dull” females are lovely with their orangey heads and rumps. Look for them locally in areas with good crabapple crops remaining on trees.



Evening grosbeak

Evening grosbeak

This is another larger, spectacular finch with a massive, pale, conical-shaped bill. The males, with their bright yellow suits, and large white wing patches used to be a staple in the Haliburton region when I first moved here in the mid-80s, often visiting local feeders in large numbers. They are extremely gregarious and can be very noisy. When a large flock discovers your feeders, they can quickly drain a kilogram of seed, making them a bit of an expensive proposition! In the past few decades, however, these gorgeous birds have declined significantly in population, and are now federally tracked as a species of concern. They are known to benefit from spruce budworm outbreaks in the north and, again, move south to follow cone crops if the boreal region is lacking them. Look and listen for these birds around feeding stations and areas with excellent cone production.



White-winged crossbill

ably designed bills (one mandible crossing over the other). In addition to this amazing feature, crossbills will breed at any time of year if food is abundant. They are one of only a few species that will court and nest in mid-winter, as long as there is an ample food supply. Visit any areas in the county with lots of spruce trees, and you are almost certain to see this species this winter.

Red crossbill

This is the other crossbill that occurs in our region. Although it bears the same, distinctive crossed mandibles as its white-winged cousin, the male is brick red in coloration and lacks white markings on the wings (the female is again yellowy coloured). In Haliburton County, it seems to prefer

see 2022 page 15

White-winged crossbill

These somewhat strange birds are common in the county this winter. They are frequently observed on roads, collecting grit, and often heard flying overhead giving their harsh “chet-chet-chet” calls. The males are somewhat like smaller and shorter tailed versions of pine grosbeaks, showing a rosy-red plumage with black wings and tail, as well as two white stripes on their wings. The females are duller, streakier, and exhibit a yellow hue. As their name suggests, white-winged crossbills are superbly adapted to chasing cone crops, and are able to “shear” seeds from cones by using their remark-



Red crossbill

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2022 offering diversity of feathered friends

from page 14

white or red pine stands, as opposed to spruce, hemlock, and tamarack. This may be because this species has developed a heavier, stronger bill, capable of shearing seeds from larger cones. Relatively recent research suggests that there are at least 10 different “types” of red crossbills, showing different bill sizes and emitting slightly different call notes. These may, in fact, end up being different species, each adapted to cones of certain tree types. Red crossbills will also come to roadsides and pick grit to ease digestion. Look for them in areas where pines are abundant and producing cones.



Common redpoll

Common redpoll

This diminutive finch is a winter visitor only in some years in Haliburton County. They are relatively common this winter, and can occasionally be observed swirling, tornado-like in massive flocks as they fly tree to tree in search of cones and seeds. Redpolls are arctic breeders and are known for their nomadic lifestyle. They, like many other finches, react to food abundance. When their preferred food (birch, willow, alder, weedy seeds) becomes scarce in the north, they push south. Redpolls are goldfinch-sized but are streaky, have a red cap, and a black mask and bib. They are regular visitors at feeding stations in some years, sometimes descending in hundreds to gorge on nyger seed. This winter, redpolls seem to be shunning feeders as there is abundant natural food in the region. Look and listen for them where tamarack, yellow birch, alder, or hemlock abound. They make a gentle “chit-chit-chit” call, like the resonating sound made by throwing pebbles on thin ice. They too often collect grit on roads, sometimes in enormous flocks, leading to high mortality.



Pine siskin

Pine siskin

This is another small finch that has a tendency to wander across the continent, not only in a north-south direction, but also east-west. Last year, pine siskins were almost non-existent in the Haliburton area. This year, there are many flocks roaming the region. Their dark, streaky silhouettes are a regular sight on roads this winter. Like redpolls, pine siskins are small and feed primarily on birch and tamarack. They have a distinctive, rising “shreeeee” call they often emit while feeding in large flocks. Although they look somewhat like tiny, streaky sparrows, siskins have thinner bills and the males show a yellow wing stripe and tail base. They too can be regular visitors at nyger feeders. This winter has been interesting in that many of the flocks of finches have been multi-species. A single flock on a freshly sanded road can have crossbills, redpolls, siskins, and goldfinches intermixed.

American goldfinch



American goldfinch

Most people recognize the tiny goldfinch immediately. Even in its drabber winter plumage, the goldfinch is still a lovely bird with its subtle shades of yellow, brown, and grey. After a moult in late-winter, the males dawn a spectacular bright yellow coat, earning them the name “wild canary.” Goldfinches are one of our locally breeding species, and are frequently observed during the summer around the county. They have a distinctive, undulating, roller-coaster type flight. Some years, the American goldfinch can be scarce during the winter months. This winter, they are abundant, forming large flocks and feeding in weedy fields, on birch and alder catkins, and on tamarack cones.

So, as you wander around the county this winter, whether driving to work, heading into town for errands, or enjoying a ski or hike, keep your eyes and ears open and look for some of our beautiful winter visitors. Please slow down if you see birds on the road, and take a few seconds to enjoy the amazing diversity of avian shapes and colours that abound this winter.



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Storm tie Hurricanes in Haliburton

Highland Storm rep under-13 forward Henry Neilson, who scored a goal, follows through on a shot against the Woodville Hurricanes goaltender in minor hockey action on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. Storm goals were also scored by Deagan Davison, Eric Mueller and Vanek Logan, who scored the equalizer with 33 seconds left in the game, enabling the home team to tie the visitors 5-5./DARREN LUM Staff



The Highland Storm under-13 hockey team celebrates a goal in minor hockey action against the visiting Woodville Hurricanes.



PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant: Mestroni Holdings Inc.
Lot 15, Concession 2
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 15, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Stanhope, Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 15, Concession 2, geographic Township of Stanhope, Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 15, Concession 2, described as Part 1 on Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10597.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the 3rd day of March, 2022 and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: February 16th, 2022

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant: Smith
Lot 23, Concession 14
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of Lot 23, Concession 14 designated as Road Allowance on Crown Land survey attached to H113784, Geographic Township of Stanhope, Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of Lot 23, Concession 14 designated as Road Allowance on Crown Land survey attached to H113784, Geographic Township of Stanhope, Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of Lot 23, Concession 14 designated as Road Allowance on Crown Land survey attached to H113784, described as Part 1 on Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10584.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the 3rd day of March, 2022 and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: February 16th, 2022

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Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant: Barrie Bobcat Limited
Lot 26, Concession 5, Maple Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 26, Concession 5, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 26, Concession 5, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 26, Concession 5, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10401.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **3rd day of March, 2022** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: February 16th, 2022

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Stevens scores a pair as Huskies down Patriots 3-1

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Echo

Following a crushing loss to the Toronto Jr. A Canadiens last Monday, the Huskies returned home to take on the Toronto Patriots for the first time ever at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena this past Friday night on Feb. 11 in Minden.

With two straight losses, the Huskies looked to get back on track as the month of February continued. Following two goals by Christian Stevens and a 20-save performance by Christian Linton, the Huskies got back into the win column with a 3-1 win.

The Huskies wasted no time getting on the board, scoring with a little more than two minutes into the game when Bryce Richardson buried a rebound from a shot taken by Isaac Sooklal for a 1-0 lead. The first period blew by rather quickly as there were minimal stoppages in play.

The second was absolute chaos.

Sooklal got his first of three bookings by taking a slashing call. Fortunately for the Huskies, Toronto's Jonathon Mead was booked for holding a few seconds later to essentially cancel the visitor's powerplay. Toronto gave it their all, however nothing they tried seemed to work.

Sooklal was booked again after a hard collision sent one of the Patriots' players awkwardly into the boards. The game officials booked Sooklal with two minutes for boarding and ejected him from the game with a 10-minute misconduct.

Christian Stevens doubled the Huskies lead after a rebound ended up on his stick and without looking buried the puck past Patriots' goalie Kyle Curtin. Huskies' forward Peyton Schaly finished the period in the sin-bin when he was sent off for a questionable goalie interference call, leading to a Patriots' powerplay goal to start the third.

An awkward shot taken by Patriots' Eric Bonsteel found its way onto the stick of his teammate McKay Hayes who buried it, beating Huskies' backup goaltender Linton. The goal ended his shutout bid and put the Patriots back into the hunt for a win. A few moments later, Patriots' forward Mead would make a run at Linton. To the ire of Huskies players and fans, Mead was not penalized and chirped the Huskies bench each chance he could.

With the game getting rougher, both teams clawed at each other's throats.

In his first game back from injury, Huskies' forward Lucas Marshall was playing with a leg brace. However, Marshall would also get dinged with a misconduct for head contact. He wasn't ejected, but forced to sit through a majority of the rest of the game in the penalty box.

As the minutes edged to the end of regulation, the Huskies added one final dagger to the hearts of the Patriots. Stevens scored his second in the game to seal the 3-1 win for the hometown team, with linemates Oliver Tarr and Patrick Saini picking up another pair of assists on the goal.

In the end, the Huskies were too much for the Patriots.

"I thought we played pretty well," Stevens said. "We were on the two game skid, but I think we were ready for it. We had a good morning practice and I'm happy we got the win. I think it's good to have these games in the regular season, as this is pretty much playoff hockey. It gets us prepared for playoffs so it's good."

On the road

The Huskies then travelled to Toronto on Saturday for a rematch against the Jr. A Canadiens. This time, however, the



Haliburton County Huskies centre Christian Stevens takes the faceoff against a Toronto Patriots player during Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Friday, Feb. 11 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Huskies beat the Patriots 3-1. /DARREN LUM Staff

Huskies had their number. Goals from Lucas Stevenson and Simon Rose helped to cement a 36-save shutout 2-0 win for Christian Cicigoi.

The Huskies will return to the S.G.Nesbitt Memorial Arena

on Tuesday, Feb. 15 for a 7:30 contest against the Caledon Admirals. This will be the first home meeting between the two squads, as the Huskies were meant to face the Admirals on New Year's Eve, however that game was rescheduled.

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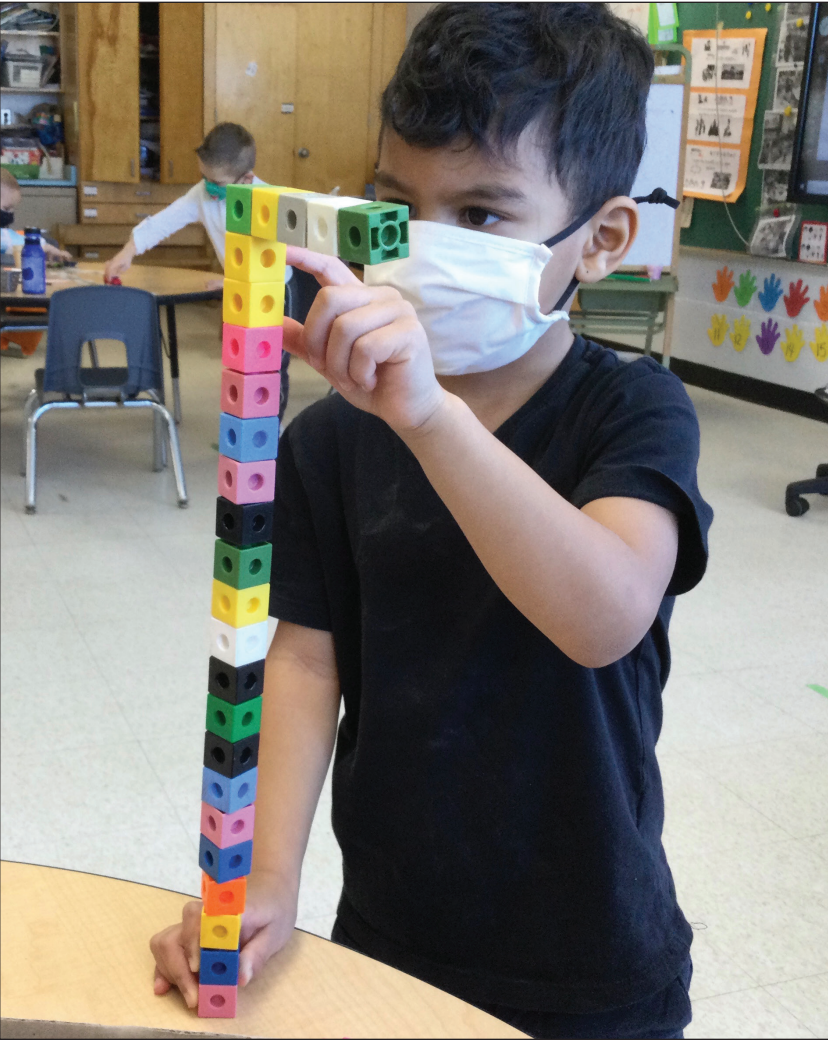
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GENERATIONS - ARCHIE STOUFFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Learning measurement: Kale in KB finds an answer to “how tall is this tower?”



Outdoor learning: Grace and Harlow look for tracks and habitats together on Archie Stouffer's forested property. / Photos submitted by Bonnie Tokar and Robin Hewitt



Measurement: building long and short roads with playing cards in KB.



Outdoor exploration: enjoying hot chocolate in the snow house.



Outdoor exploration: a group of KB students on a hill.



Measurement: In KB, Wren, Charlie and Emily compare bowl capacities using a bin of rice.



Outdoor learning: Dean, Hazel, Jaxon and Nixon look for tracks and habitats outdoors.



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6	9							
	5						1	4
8		1			3	2		
1							9	
				7			5	
	6			8	9			1
	4						3	
				4		5		2
		2	1		8			

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 21

Level: Intermediate

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

1. File No. PLSRA2020031: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front 1055 Raccoon Lane located within Lot 9, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
2. File No. PLSRA2020045: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1052 Beverley Lane located Lot 24, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
3. File No. PLSRA2020061: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Horseshoe Lake, lying in front of 1074 McCrackens Lane located within Lot 11, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden
4. File No. PLSRA2021005: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1233 U of T Survey Camp Road located within Lot 10, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
5. File No. PLSRA2021008: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of vacant lands having Roll Number 4616-031-000-43590-0000 on McMullen Lane located within Lot 29, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Minden
6. File No. PLSRA2021009: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of vacant lands having Roll Number 4616-031-000-43560-0000 on McMullen Lane located within Lot 29, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Minden
7. File No. PLSRA2021054: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of vacant lands having Roll Number 4616-032-000-45110-000 on Echo Lane within Lot 31, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden
8. File No. PLSRA2021055: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of vacant lands having Roll Number 4616-032-000-45100-000 on Echo Lane within Lot 31, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden
9. File No. PLSRA2021056: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of 1011 Echo Lane located within Lot 31, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden
10. File No. PLSRA2021057: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of South Beaver Lake, lying in front of 1142 Triangle Trail located within Lot 21, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
11. File No. PLSRA2021073: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 1534 Twelve Mile Lake Road located within Lot 8, Concession 10, Geographic Township of Minden
12. File No. PLSRA2021074: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Little Canning Lake, lying in front of 1096 Wharf Lane located within Lot 7, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Township Planning Consultant
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adougherty@mindenhills.ca

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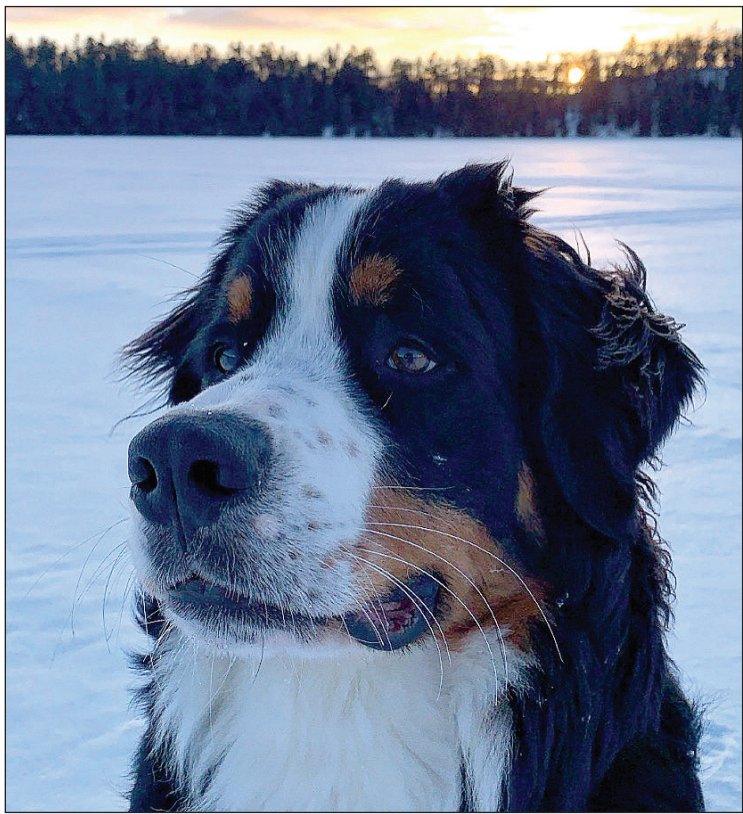
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AROUND THE COUNTY TOWN

Making the best of it

Alec, who has visited Oakview Lodge and Marina multiple times a year since 2015 with partner Edith, gave hosts and guests a laugh dressing for the beach on a particularly freezing morning last weekend. "This repeat guest of ours always starts the day with a positive outlook on life," said Anna Schmiegelow. "It's all about attitude. Minus 30 outside, but we're celebrating the sunshine in here! (The Billy Idol hair visor is the icing on the cake!)" / Photo submitted by Oakview Lodge and Marina



Regal beast

"My daughter took this picture this past Sat. Feb. 12 on East Moore Lake in Minden," said Debbie Comer. "I think it is a beautiful sunset picture of our puppy Geddy, a Bernese mountain dog, and thought I would share! We think he looks majestic. And he is a whole lot of puppy at nine months and 70 pounds!" /Photo by Sarah Comer

To see your loved ones on this page, send photos to sue@haliburtonpress.com



Frosty feats

Rylie and Quinn Aleksander in Minden dug themselves snow caves on Feb. 10. Their tunnels are four feet long and two to three feet wide. /Photo submitted by Katina Aleksander



Snow shelter

Minden resident Tecwyn McCutcheon gets inside while outside in an igloo built in his backyard on the McCutcheon farm by Kim Switzer and Dave Wilfong. /Photo submitted



Fashionista sisters

Ella Hirstwood, left, found a how-to video on making doll clothes out of balloons on YouTube, so she, her sister Arianna Hirstwood and mom April Austen spent time together afterschool creating a bright and colourful wardrobe. / Photo submitted by April Austen

SUDOKU SOLUTION

6	9	4	8	1	2	3	7	5
2	5	3	7	9	6	8	1	4
8	7	1	4	5	3	2	6	9
1	2	5	6	3	4	7	9	8
4	8	9	2	7	1	6	5	3
3	6	7	5	8	9	4	2	1
7	4	8	9	2	5	1	3	6
9	1	6	3	4	7	5	8	2
5	3	2	1	6	8	9	4	7



Team thanks

In a post on the Haliburton Huskies Twitter page, special thanks was given to Haliburton's Matt Duchene, who plays for the Nashville Predators, for sponsoring the Huskies team track suits this season. "The boys are looking sharp," read the Tweet, posted Feb. 7. /Photo submitted by Noah Giordano

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires

One (1) Permanent Truck Driver/Equipment Operator

Successful applicant will possess an AZ licence and have experience operating heavy equipment. Hourly rate is \$25.78.

Two (2) Seasonal 1 Operators

Successful applicant will possess a DZ licence and have road maintenance and repair experience. Hourly rate is \$24.24.

Two (2) Seasonal Flagperson/Labourers

Successful applicant will possess a G licence and have experience in manual labour positions. Hourly rate is \$17.96.

These are unionized CUPE positions. Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than Friday February 25th, 2022 at 12:00pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires

One (1) Permanent Engineering Assistant – Capital Projects

The successful applicant should have a college diploma in Civil Engineering or Survey Technology and will have 2-3 years of municipal work experience. Must have a valid G drivers licence. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$30.95.

One (1) Seasonal Engineering Student (April - August)

The successful applicant must be currently attending a civil engineering program, familiar with Total Station Surveys, ArcGIS, AutoCAD and have a valid G drivers licence. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$22.42.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than March 2, 2022.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



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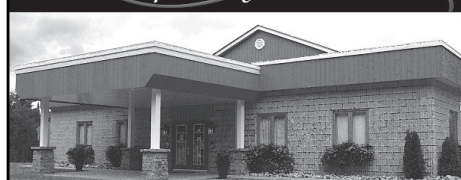
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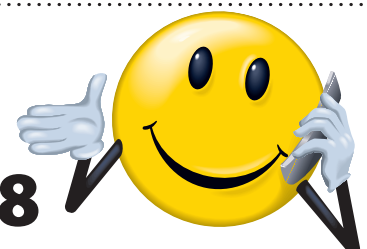
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Minden Times Classifieds

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Deadline 4 pm Monday

650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

Marie Blair

Passed away peacefully at Highland Wood LTC, Haliburton on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

Beloved wife of the late Lee. Loving mother of Marnnie. Dear sister of Shirley (Bernard), Roger (Cathy) and aunt of Susan (Bill) and her children Andrew (Katie) and Jessica, loving great great aunt to Kensley and Remi-Lee; Alexander and Sophie. Marie was lovingly cared for by Anne, Elaine, Susan, Kathryn, Annah, Nancy, Crystal and Keelan. Thank you to Dr. Suke, Dr. Stephenson and the care team at Highland Wood.

A Private Graveside Service will take place at Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery in the Spring.

Memorial Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation-Highland Wood LTD (HHHSF-Highland Wood LTC) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of

Peter Robert O'Reilly

Passed away peacefully at the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre, Toronto on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, in his 89th year.

Beloved husband of the late Mary (nee Beattie). Dear father of Tracey Taylor (Tim) and loving grandfather of Tabitha and Timothy. Fondly remembered by his niece Betty Jackson and along with his family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, February 19, 2022 from 12:00 pm until the time of the Service to Celebrate Peter's Life at 1:00 pm. Spring Interment at Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery, Carnarvon.

Please Note: All patrons (visitors) must RSVP for the visitation and service on the funeral home website and provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and identification prior to entering. Social distancing, face coverings and lists for the names and phone numbers of the visiting attendees are required for contact tracing.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Royal Canadian Legion, Minden Br. 636 Poppy Fund or to the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Foundation for the Veterans Centre would be appreciated by the family.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of

John Cameron Winsley

(W. Bro. with the North Entrance Lodge #463 Haliburton and the Parkwood Lodge #695 Oshawa)

Passed away peacefully at home on Monday, January 31, 2022 surrounded by his family, at the age of 77.

Beloved husband of Audrie. Dear father of Shawn (Diane), Bronwen (Jay) and Meggan. Loving grandfather of Rachel, Caleb, Austin, Kaelyn and Harrison. Dear brother of Elizabeth and predeceased by Margaret.

Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate John's Life at 1:00 pm.

Please Note # All patrons (visitors) must provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and identification prior to entering. Social distancing, face coverings and lists for the names and phone numbers of the visiting attendees are required for contact tracing.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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5



Ready to rock

Young curlers sweep, practising during the Junior Curling Program offered at and by the Minden Curling Club, which will be hosting hundreds of curlers from across the province during the Timbits Ontario Elementary School Provincial Championships from March 31 to April 3 at the club and the S.G. Nesbitt Arena in Minden. See page 19 for more photos.

Darren Lum Times staff

Oxtongue Lake to get high-speed

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Residents of Oxtongue Lake who want high-speed Internet should get it some time this spring.

At a March 3 meeting, Algonquin Highlands councillors gave the go-ahead for the construction of a communication tower in the small

community at the northern tip of the township. Last month, councillors were visited by Michel Potvin of Huntsville's 4Pairless Communications Inc. who expressed his interest in building an Internet tower in the resort community.

At that meeting, Potvin had said there was overwhelming support for the project, but councillors requested he return with a specific list of people and whether or not they were in favour.

While Potvin did not bring such a list last

week, Reeve Carol Moffatt noted that the matter had been addressed in an email circulated among the members of the Oxtongue Lake Association, on which she had been copied.

"Those who did respond... overwhelmingly were in favour," Moffatt said, adding the response to the association's email was proof enough for her the project was desired by the

see RESIDENTS page 17

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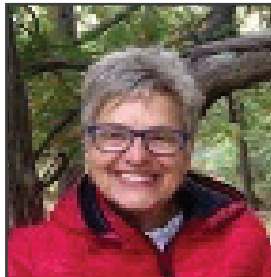
Dean Michel* &
Jennifer Bacon*



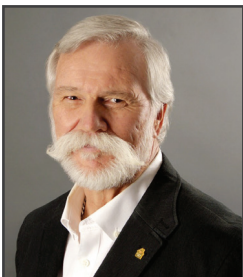


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